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Dr. K. B. MENON :—" Sir, when is the term of the present incumbent expected to expire? "

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" The present incumbent is not given any term, Sir. He is there for the present."

Sri KUNHI MOHAMED SHAFEE :—" Sir, May I know for how long the present incumbent was holding the post and may I also know from the Hon. Minister from his experience of the present administration, whether it is satisfactory or otherwise? "

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Sir, I think he has been holding the post for nearly one year and I can say that considerable arrears have been disposed off. But whenever a suitable and technically qualified officer is available, we will go in for him."

Sri V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR :—" Sir, the justification for the appointment of the I.C.S. Officer was to tone up the administration of the department. May I know whether Government had reports that before the officer was appointed, there was lack of this quality in the department, namely, there was corruption? "

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Sir, I did not say there was toning up the administration of the department. Before this I.C.S. Officer took charge, there was an officer of the Indian Forest Service holding the post. It was there brought to the notice of the Government that there was considerable delay in the disposal of even routine matters. Some of the references were reported to be pending with him even for three years. Then the Government appointed an administrative officer to go into the question. That officer found that the Chief Conservator of Forests had with him a bundle of papers pending with him for a long time without passing any orders. And there was no proposal from the Chief Conservator of Forests for the improvement of forests. Further, Sir, the Inspector-General of Forest Administration, Government of India, brought to the notice of the Government that the administration was considerably deteriorating. It was under these circumstances that an I.C.S. officer was appointed for this post."

Maternity Centre for Kambil, Chirakkal taluk.

* 228 *Q.*—Sri T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have any proposal to start a maternity centre in Kambil, Chirakkal taluk, North Malabar; and

(*b*) how many maternity centres are working in Chirakkal taluk and in which firkas?

The Hon. A. B. SHETTY :—" (*a*) No, Sir.

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" (b) Four maternity centres are working in Chirakkal taluk. The centres are located at Mattool, Baliapattam, Aichur and Pappinisseri."

SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—" Sir, in view of the fact that there are number of deaths of mothers during child birth for want of medical facilities and scientific guidance and in view of the fact that even the Malabar District Board by a resolution requested the Government to help them in starting the maternity centre in Kambil, Chirakkal taluk, even 15 years back, will the Hon. Minister be pleased to consider the question of sanctioning a maternity centre for Kambil, Chirakkal taluk."

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" The Government are not directly running any maternity or child-welfare centres; in view of the short finances of the District Boards, Government are giving fifty per cent maintenance grant for the maternity centres started in Malabar as against one-fourth grant given for other places."

SRI V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR :—" Sir, since the Government by themselves are not proposing to give this elementary amenity to the people, will the Government at least make some grants if the Panchayat boards start these centres? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Yes, Sir. They are allowed to start maternity centres. The Payanoor Panchayat Board has opened one."

Collection of sales tax in South Kanara.

* 229 *Q.*—

MR. SPEAKER :—" As the hon. Member Sri M. S. Mogral is not in his seat, the question and answer will be printed in the proceedings."

SRI M. S. MOGRAL : Will the Hon. the Minister for Land Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) the total receipts under sales tax for the year 1952–53 in the district of South Kanara; and

(b) the expenditure incurred for the collection of this tax?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" (a) Rs. 30,84,271–4–6.
" (b) Rs. 1,36,932–1–1."

Quantity of petrol allotted to the Prohibition department in South Arcot district.

* 230 *Q.*—SRI K. ARANGANATHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Prohibition be pleased to state—

(a) the total quantity of petrol allotted for the years 1952 and 1953 for the Prohibition department and the actual quantity consumed in South Arcot district; and

(b) if there is any difference in the quantities, the reasons for the same?